

(d) to (f) The decision has been taken by the CIL in the overall interest of sellers and buyers, including small entrepreneurs.

Austerity measures by coal PSUs

1089. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a major toning-up operation of coal sector, Government has directed coal PSUs to adopt new austerity measures aimed at improving their bottom line and cutting wasteful expenses;

(b) if so, what are the main directives issued to them;

(c) what are the other steps being considered to weed-out corruption in the coal PSUs; and

(d) to what extent the performances of the coal PSUs has been improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Guidelines on expenditure management and austerity measures have been issued by the Ministry of Coal to Coal India Limited, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited on 22.11.2000. Broad features, of the guidelines are declaration of minimum dividend on equity of 20% or 20% of post tax profits, whichever is higher, issue of bonus to the Government, recovery of cost of services, prevention of time and cost over-runs, rationalization of manpower, mandatory cut in non-plan expenditure, economy in use of vehicles and restriction for purchase of vehicle, 10% cut in posts etc.

(c) The Vigilance Departments of Coal companies make concerted efforts towards preventive vigilance. This is done through surprise inspection of corruption prone areas of activity. Whenever any defect or gap in procedure comes to notice which leaves scope for corruption, immediate steps are taken for remedial action. Further, transfer of executives and staff from the sensitive department is being done periodically by the coal companies.

[1st August 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) The performance of the company is dependent on various factors. During the last three years, Coal India Limited (CIL) have recorded growth in coal production consistently:—

| Year | Production (million tonnes) |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1998-1999 | 256.48 |
| 1999-2000 | 260.58 |
| 2000-2001 | 268.26 (Provisional) |
| 2001-2002 | 279.00 (Target) |

There has also been considerable reduction of manpower in CIL during the last three years:-

| Date | Number of employees |
|----------|---------------------|
| 1.4.1999 | 5,86,882 |
| 1.4.2000 | 5,62,071 |
| 1.4.2001 | 5,42,051 |

SCCL has been able to achieve a saving of Rs. 27 crores per year as a result of reduction in Playday/Paid Holiday and overtime allowances.

Multi-crore scam in BCCL

1090. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a multicrore scam of sending coal rakes loaded in Jeenagora colliery for Panki Thermal Power Station in U.P. containing large percentage of stones and boulders involving Bharat Coking Coal Limited, has recently come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Coal is being supplied to Panki Thermal Power Station (TPS) from different coal mines of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) including Jeenagora colliery. Quality/Grade slippage from the booked grade has taken